



Certified Interpreters vs. Certified Deaf Interpreters

Certified Interpreter



- A hearing person
- Sign Language is their second language
except for Children of Deaf Adults (CODA)

Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI)

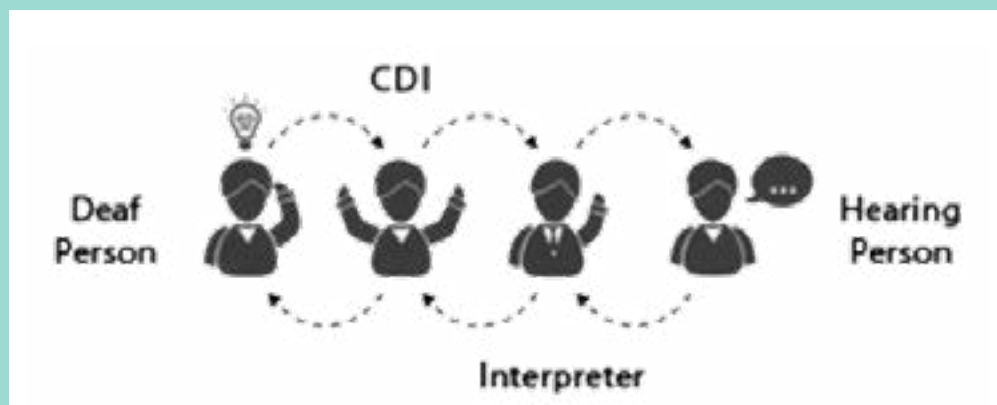


- A Deaf or Hard of Hearing person
- Sign Language is their native language
- CDIs have firsthand knowledge and experience with deafness, the deaf community, and Deaf culture
- CDIs may use props, drama, and visual gestural communication

How are CDI's used?



A CDI serves as an equal member of the interpreting team along with a certified hearing interpreter or a certified interpreter. The CDI interprets the message from the deaf consumer (without using English syntax) to the hearing interpreter and the hearing interpreter then relays the message to the hearing consumer by putting the content into English.



When should a CDI be used?



CDIs are particularly useful when the communication mode used by the deaf consumer is unique, when they have minimal or limited communication skills, or when they use signs that a hearing interpreter may not be familiar with such as:

- non-standard signs
- “home” signs
- international sign language
- visual gestural communication
- regional signs, etc.

Sign Language is not the first language of hearing interpreters, except for CODA. CDI's provide interpretation to the deaf consumer in their native language without the addition of an English structure and may also have a better understanding of what the deaf consumer is communicating.



Please submit questions regarding this Service Guidance Document to the Special Populations Unit at RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov